

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 00393 190815Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05
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R 109703Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7815
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
CINCPAC
USUN NEW YORK 1118

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0393

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS PDIP BG PK
SUBJECT: NEW AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL:

1. THE BDG JANUARY 18 ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF NAZRUL ISLAM, A CAREER DIPLOMAT, AS AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMABAD. HE IS PRESENTLY SERVING AS BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND AND CONCURRENTLY TO THE PHILIPPINES. THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT MADE NO MENTION OF THE NEXT ASSIGNMENT OF THE PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMABAD, ZAHIRUDDIN, BUT WE HAVE LEARNED THAT HE WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO RANGOON TO REPLACE S.A. KARIM. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ZAHIRUDDIN'S TRANSFER HAD BEEN DELAYED BY THE BDG'S DIFFICULTY IN FINDING A NOMINEE. THE FIRST PROPOSAL WITHIN THE BDG WAS OF A LOCAL LAWYER (BROTHER-IN-LAW
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 00393 190815Z

TO FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN) WHOSE SURFACING RAISED HECKLES. HE HAD BEEN, BY MANY ACCOUNTS, A "COLLABORATOR" DURING 1971, AND FURTHER, WE ARE TOLD, WAS NOT GREAT SHAKES AS A LAWYER. END CONFIDENTIAL.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOLLOWING IS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ISLAM AS PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY 19 BANGLADESH OBSERVER:

QUOTE: BORN ON DACCA ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1932, MR. ISLAM GRADUATED WITH HONORS IN GENERAL HISTORY FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF DACCA IN 1952 AND M.A. IN 1953. HE JOINED THE UNIVERSITY OF DACCA AS A LECTURER IN GENERAL HISTORY.

3. IN 1955, MR. NAZRUL ISLAM JOINED THE FOREIGN SERVICE THROUGH THE CENTRAL SUPERIOR SERVICE EXAMINATION. HE DID A GRADUATE COURSE IN LAW AND DIPLOMACY AT THE FLETCHER INSTITUTE (SIC) IN BOSTON, USA. HE ALSO ATTENDED A DIPLOMATIC TRAINING COURSE AT THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS OFFICE IN 1956 AND A FRENCH LANGUAGE COURSE IN FRANCE IN 1956-57.

4. HE SERVED IN DIFFERENT CAPACITIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN NEW DELHI, RANGOON AND BERNE DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1958 TO 1968. HE WAS POSTED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ISLAMABAD IN 1968.

5. ON HIS RETURN TO BANGLADESH IN FEBRUARY 1973, HE JOINED THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. HE HAS BEEN BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND SINCE FEBRUARY 1976.

6. MR. NAZRUL ISLAM IS A KEEN SPORTSMAN. HE IS MARRIED AND HAS ONE DAUGHTER. UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

7. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: FORMER AMBASSADOR BOSTER KNEW
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PAGE 03 DACCA 00393 190815Z

ISLAM WHEN THE LATTER WAS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. WHEN ISLAM WAS POSTED TO BANGKOK, AMBASSADOR BOSTER NOTED THAT ISLAM "DID A REASONABLY GOOD JOB IN THAT DIFFICULT POST." HE WAS ALSO GOOD COMPANY AT THE BRIDGE TABLE AND ON THE TENNIS COURTS. MRS. ISLAM, "SHANAZ", LIVED IN THAILAND AS A YOUNG GIRL AND SPEAKS THAI. SHE IS CONSIDERED MORE QUIET THAN HER GREGARIOUS AND OUTGOING HUSBAND.

8. FOR RANGOON AND USUN: S.A. KARIM HAS BEEN DICKERING FOR A POST IN THE UN SECRETARIAT. WE ARE TOLD HE IS CLOSE TO CLINCHING THE ARRANGEMENT AND WILL RETIRE FROM BANGLADESH SERVICE TO ACCEPT THE POST. END CONFIDENTIAL.
BERGESEN

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NNN

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